

NEWSRELEASE

Montana Department of Corrections • 5 S. Last Chance Gulch
Helena, Montana 59601 • 444-3930 • Fax: 444-4920



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CONTACT: Judy Beck, 444-0409

Montana State Prison health services ace national re-accreditation review
68 standards met and no deficiencies give compliance score of 100 percent

DEER LODGE – State corrections director Mike Batista today announced that the infirmary at the Montana State Prison has been re-accredited for three years. A two-day onsite audit conducted by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) survey team in May this year found that the medical and mental health care services provided at the men's prison met all of the commission's 68 standards. The audit noted no deficiencies.

"This outstanding audit is a credit to the many dedicated health care professionals who work at the Montana State Prison," Batista said. "Providing high quality care in a secure facility presents some unique challenges, but the prison's clinical team rises above these difficulties on a daily basis and does a tremendous job for the inmates and for Montana taxpayers."

The NCCHC report praised prison staff for working together to ensure that inmates receive the care they need: "We noted excellent cooperation between custody and medical staff. Administrative decisions such as utilization review are coordinated, if necessary, with clinical needs so that patient care is not jeopardized."

The MSP infirmary was accredited for the first time in 2011. Re-accreditation reviews are conducted on a three-year cycle.

"Our re-accreditation demonstrates how committed everyone on the clinical staff has been over the past three years to adhering to each and every NCCHC standard," Connie Winner, administrator of the DOC Clinical Services division said. "We're fortunate that the entire medical and mental health team at the state prison is so motivated and hardworking. I'm very proud of what they have accomplished."

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care is dedicated to improving the quality of health care services and helping correctional facilities provide effective and efficient care. The standards are NCCHC's recommended requirements for the proper management of a correctional health services delivery system. These standards have helped correctional facilities improve the health of their inmates and the communities to which they return, increase the

efficiency of their health services delivery, strengthen their organizational effectiveness, and reduce their risk of adverse patient outcomes and legal judgments.

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